

Statement from city of Fort Worth on IT lawsuit

While the City does not typically comment on pending litigation, we want to assure the public and our employees that the City takes data security very seriously. Like all large organizations, constant vigilance and new tactics are necessary to prevent and respond to data breaches. The lawsuit involves an employee who was responsible for data security and was terminated for failure to follow management direction and do the things reasonably necessary to get us in compliance. The City is in compliance with all Federal regulations and is in line with industry practice for these protection measures.

- The City was the victim of fraud in late 2017 when, due to human error, a vendor payment was redirected to a bad actor. Since that time, an arrest has been made in the case and additional safeguards have been implemented to ensure banking information updates are properly reviewed.
- In the fall of 2018, the City addressed an employee data concern with a third-party benefit partner which was immediately resolved by the vendor with additional authentication requirements.
- The Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) audit was successfully concluded with the Department of Public Safety this spring in spite of the misinformation presented by the plaintiff to both the DPS and the Police Department. Per the Attorney General, these audits are not publicly available since bad actors could use the information to attempt to breach existing systems.

The City is fully prepared to defend itself against these allegations.